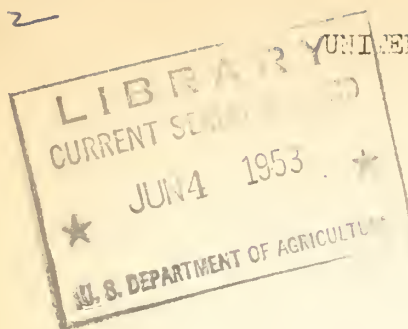


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

FIELD MEMORANDUM SCS-#1155

Re: Acceptance of Gratuities

April 14, 1953

TO ALL RANKING WASHINGTON AND FIELD OFFICERS:

The regulations of the Department of Agriculture regarding the acceptance of gratuities by employees of the Department for activities connected with their official position, are specific and clear. In order that there will be no misunderstanding of the Department's position and that of this office on this matter, the following quoted Section from Title 8 of the Administrative Regulations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture shall be brought to the attention of each employee of the Service:

"2001. CONDUCT THAT MIGHT CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO DEPARTMENT.

Employees shall not at any time conduct themselves in a manner that might cause embarrassment to or criticism of the Department or interfere with the efficient performance of their duties. For example, employees of the Department whose duties require the enforcement of laws or regulations or who are in a position to award or influence the award of business or to take or influence the taking of any other official action that may affect, favorably or unfavorably, any person, firm, or corporation should not accept from any such person, firm, or corporation any favor, gift, loan, unusual discount, gratuitous service, entertainment, or other thing of value; nor should any employee of the Department give or use information acquired by means of his official position to advance the interests of himself, his family, his business associates, or his personal friends over those of other persons. Acceptance of courtesies commonly extended, such as luncheon or dinner, is not intended to be prohibited; however, before accepting even such a courtesy, employees should satisfy themselves that it would not result in embarrassment to the Department or to themselves. (See also 5 AR 114)."

There is also for consideration the provisions of 18 U. S. Code 216, Supp., which reads as follows:

To All Ranking Field Officers - 2

"Whoever, being a Member of or Delegate to Congress, or a Resident Commissioner, either before or after he has qualified, or being an officer, employee, or agent of the United States, directly or indirectly takes, receives, or agrees to receive, any money or thing of value, for giving, procuring or aiding to procure to or for any person, any contract from the United States or from any officer, department or agency thereof; or

Whoever, directly or indirectly, offers, gives, or agrees to give any money or thing of value for procuring or aiding to procure, any such contract--

Shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both; and be disqualified from holding any office of honor, profit, or trust under the United States.

The President may declare void any such contract or agreement. (June 25, 1943, ch. 645, § 1, 62 Stat. 694, eff. Sept. 1, 1948.)"

Walter M. Latta